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EVENING 233, 195

Pol 4 Russia & Cuba

X Ag 3-3

X Pers 2 John STENNIS

Gag Attempt on Cuba Data?

THE WHITE HOUSE is making an astonishing demand regarding the forthcoming report of the Senate Armed Services Preparedness Subcommittee on its investigation of Russian military forces in Cuba.

It wants to examine these findings before they are published.

Avowed reason for this extraordinary demand is to make certain that no security information is divulged. But Senate probers see this backstage move as an indirect attempt to head off a blast of official criticism at President Kennedy's failure to get Soviet troops out of Cuba.

THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT of the report, still waiting final approval, is sharply critical of the Administration's failure to use information provided by the Central Intelligence Agency.

CIA Director John McCone is singled out for high praise for the advance warnings he submitted to top policy-makers on the Communists' sinister military build-up.

The glaring failure of the President's advisers to accurately evaluate these warnings, the report holds, was a primary cause in the near-disastrous delay in taking forceful action against the ominous Red threat. It was this deficiency and not lack of intelligence that was at the root of the missile crisis.

THE REPORT states bluntly that even now no one in the government is certain of the number of Soviet troops in Cuba or these withdrawn since the missile showdown last October.

The charge is also caustically made that no positive information exists on the exact number of missiles and bombers Moscow sent to and reportedly withdrew from Cuba.

White House estimates that only 12,000 Russian troops are now in Cuba are tersely characterized as no more than an "educated guess." Pointedly the report notes that "U. S. intelligence services have rather-

caves are being used to store heavy weapons, the report reveals that U. S. authorities still are in the dark on whether these hide-outs contain missiles and nuclear weapons.

"Absolute assurance on these matters can only come from penetrating on-site inspection," asserts the report.

IN ONE FINDING, the senators state that "despite the confrontation of last October, substantial and powerful" Soviet military forces still remain in Cuba.

They warn that Fidel Castro's training and export of Communist agents to other Latin American countries poses one of the most serious dangers ever faced in the Western Hemisphere.

Still to be completed are the investigators' recommendations on what should be done to eliminate Russian control of Cuba and to oust Castro.

Also still to be acted on is the White House demand for an "on-site" advance inspection of the committee's report.

After completing the Cuban investigation, the probers, headed by Sen. John Stennis (D-Miss.) will launch an inquiry into the Administration's disarmament proposals and how they would affect the security of the nation.

McCONE

... high praise

ed. warnings from Cuban refugees that Soviet forces are much larger."

PRECONCEIVED and faulty estimates by the President's principal foreign policy advisers, the report charges, greatly hindered a correct intelligence assessment of the Soviet build-up in Cuba.

Cited as one of the most misleading estimates was a flat contention by McGeorge Bundy, special foreign policy adviser of the President, that it was not Soviet Premier Khrushchev's intention to establish a strategic nuclear missile base outside of Russia. While considerable intelligence exists that Cuban